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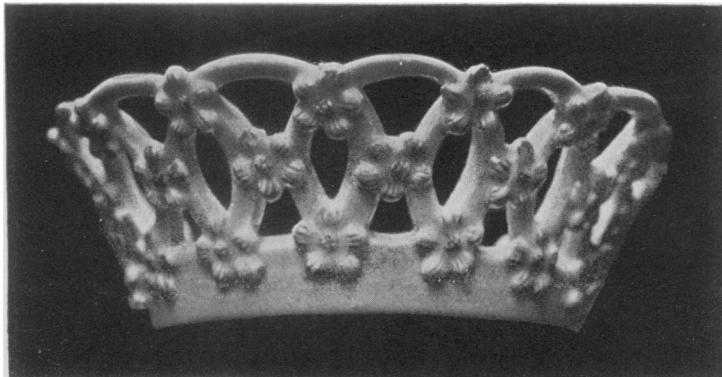
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The Collection of American Pottery

The collection of American pottery and porcelain, presented by Mr. John T. Morris, is the only important one of its kind in existence. It has attracted perhaps more attention than any other exhibit in the Museum. It consists of some 2000 examples of American pottery, parian, majolica, stoneware and porcelain, illustrating the history of the potter's art in this country from the earliest times, including many rarities which can never be



THE OLDEST KNOWN PIECE OF AMERICAN WHITE WARE
Made in Philadelphia about 1770.

duplicated. Visitors from various sections of this country, from England and other parts of Europe have come to the Museum especially to inspect it, and new pieces are being constantly added. Here may be seen an example of the earliest manufacture of white ware produced in America (and the only known authenticated piece), from the Southwark china works, in Philadelphia, established in 1769. This highly interesting object is a small fruit dish, with openwork border, studded with flower-like ornaments in relief. The body is white clay with underglaze blue decorations, the shape being taken from an old Worcester design.

The old china factory was erected in Prime street, near the Navy Yard, the proprietors being George Anthony Morris, of Philadelphia, and Gousse Bonnin, of Antigua. The manufacture was discontinued in 1773 or 1774.

The series of Pennsylvania-German pottery, numbering about 150 fine specimens, forms one of the most unique and interesting exhibits in the Museum. There are numerous pie plates, jars, large plaque-shaped dishes, some of them nearly a foot and a half in diameter, drinking vessels, flower pots, toys and shaving basins, decorated with floral and animal designs, inscriptions, names and dates. As examples of brilliant colorings in natural clays, many of the pieces are unsurpassed. Some of the sgraffito decorations are distinctly historical in character, such as a quaint representation of the "Mischianza," which was held in Philadelphia in 1778, on the departure of the British General, Sir William Howe.

This remarkable collection is being increased from time to time, one of the latest additions, and perhaps the oldest, being a small lathering dish or shaving basin with slip-decorated embellishments representing barber's implements—comb, razor, shears and soap, and the following marginal inscription:

"Sive (*siebe*) du armer bart,
Jetzt must von deiner schwart."

Translation:

(I must) lather you, poor beard,
Now (you) must (come) from your hide.

While no date appears on this dish, it shows evidence of belonging to a period not later than 1750 (see cut below).

The Museum Handbook on "Tulip Ware of the Pennsylvania-German Potters," recently published, treats of this branch of the collection, and will prove of general interest to lovers of the ceramic art.

In the collection will also be found numerous fine examples of the earliest soft porcelain, hard porcelain, Parian, Belleek, Rockingham, stoneware, yellow, green-glazed and printed wares made in the United States. In addition to these historical specimens are characteristic examples from all the most important art potteries of recent times. The collection of American pottery and porcelain is alone well worth a visit to the Museum.

Japanese Exhibits

Many inquiries have been made lately for the Japanese exhibits. The following directions will be useful to visitors:

In the South Vestibule will be found two wooden figures of heroic size, 300 years old, representing guards from the temple at Nara, Japan. On the left side may be seen some large figures of Buddha. Passing into the textile room adjoining, visitors may inspect, in the cases along the south wall, some fine embroideries and hangings. The Japanese lacquers, bronzes and carvings are exhibited in the Chinese cases in the East Gallery, and in the northeast corner of the room a remarkable collection of wood carvings from old temples and palaces will be found. The general collections of Oriental pottery and porcelains are displayed in the Southwest Pavilion, while in the Bloomfield Moore room, along the eastern end of the building, will be found a case of Japanese ivory carvings, and in the Northeast Pavilion another case of Japanese pottery.



SLIP-DECORATED SHAVING BASIN
Pennsylvania German, about 1750.